IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: R.P. Volante et al.

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Art Unit:

For:

PROCESS FOR MAKING SPIROLACTONE

COMPOUNDS

Mail Stop PCT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

The above identified application is a PCT application entering the US National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and Article 39(1)(a) of the Patent Cooperation Treaty. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the following amendments prior to prosecution of the subject application. Any additional fees associated with this Amendment may be charged to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

DATE OF DEPOSIT April 14,200

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